

REMARKS

Claims 42, 55, 68 and 69 have been amended. Claims 48, 53, 61 and 66 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 42-45, 47, 51, 54-58, 60, 64-65 and 67-71 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Seaman, et al. reference (U. S. Published Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0030733). The Examiner has further rejected applicant's claims 49-50 and 62-63 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the latter reference taken with the Tanaka, et al. patent (U.S. Patent 7,321,763). Claims 46 and 59 have been rejected under 35 USC. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Seaman, et al. reference taken in view of Yamazaki, et al. patent (US Patent 6,724,777). Claims 48 and 61 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Seaman, et al. reference taken with the Chiba reference (U. S. Published Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0047403). Claims 53 and 66 have been rejected under 35 USC. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Seaman, et al. reference in view of the Yamazaki patent (US Patent 6,785,727). Claim 52 has been rejected under 35 USC. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Seaman, et al. reference in view of the Tanaka, et al. patent (US Patent 7,327,387). With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 42 has been amended to better define applicant's invention. More particularly, amended independent claim 42 recites an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with an information input apparatus, comprising: reception unit configured: (1) in a first reception operation where the information processing apparatus is connected to the information input apparatus, to receive information specifying a

file recorded on a recording medium of the information input apparatus; (2) in a second reception operation after the reception in the first reception operation, to receive part of attribute information, not all of the attribute information, of the file recorded on the recording medium of the information input apparatus; and (3) in a third reception operation after the reception in the second reception operation, to receive information which has not been received in the second reception operation, not all of the file, among information included in the file recorded on the recording medium of the information input apparatus, wherein the part of attribute information received in the second reception operation is obtainable without analyzing the file, and the information received in the third reception operation is obtainable by analyzing the file. Independent method claim 68 recites similar features.

In addition, independent claims 55 and 69 recite an apparatus and method, respectively, that pertain to a transmission unit that is configured to transmit the information received during the three operations recited in applicant's claim 42 and have been similarly amended.

As can be appreciated from the above, independent claim 42 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 53 which has been canceled. More particularly, amended independent claim 42 is specifically characterized by a second reception operation which receives part of attribute information which is obtainable without analyzing the file. Examples of such information are a file name, a file size, a file stamp, and so on, which are classified as a category 1 information in applicant's FIG. 5, acquirable within relatively short periods of time (see, page 12, lines 9-19 of applicant's specification). This compares with information which is classified as a category 2 information in applicant's FIG. 5 which is not acquirable without analysis and requires some time for acquisition processing (see, page 12, lines 20-21, page 14, line 21 to page 15, line 3, of applicant's specification).

The present invention provides a countermeasure to the inconvenience that is encountered at a time when a camera is connected to a PC and a large amount of data is stored in the camera. In such case, a user has to wait for a long time before moving on to the subsequent operations until all the attribute information generated in the camera is transmitted from the camera to the PC (see page 3, line 21 to page 4, line 4 of applicant's specification). Thus, with the claimed invention, the attribute information is classified into those acquirable without analyzing the file (category 1 information), and those acquirable by analyzing the file (category 2 information). Then, in the second reception operation, only the category 1 information is received, thereby reducing the time to be taken in the initial operation at the time when the camera and the PC are connected.

Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, since, as above-noted, the features of claim 53 have been added to independent claim 42, the only rejection of the Examiner relevant to amended claim 42 (and thus the other amended independent claims 55, 68 and 69) is the rejection based on the Seaman, et al. and Yamazaki references.

First, applicant's agree with the Examiner that the Seaman, et al. reference does not teach or suggest that a part of the attribute information of the file to be transmitted by the transmission unit includes information obtained without analyzing the file. However, the Examiner argues that this feature is disclosed in column 27, lines 50-53, of the Yamazaki patent. Applicant disagrees.

More particularly, the Yamazaki patent discloses that "it is possible to reserve resources without analyzing job data at the printer side by receiving the setting about resources to be secured while the setting is attached to job data" (column 27, lines 50-53). On the other hand, the patent further discloses that the job table is analyzed to obtain the resources information in column 18, lines 60-66. The description in column 27, lines 50-53, merely indicates that job data is not analyzed at the printer side. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion as to how to

obtain the resources without analyzing the job data at all. Therefore, a more reasonable interpretation of the reference is that the job data should be and is analyzed at some stage to obtain the resource information. Thus, the “setting about resources” described in the reference is not a teaching or suggestion of attribute data obtainable without analyzing the file.

Applicant therefore submits that the Seaman, et al. and the Yamazaki references do not teach or suggest the second reception operation that receives part of attribution information obtainable without analyzing the file, as required by applicant’s amended independent claims 42 and 68, and their respective dependent claims, or the second transmission operation that obtains a part of the attribute information without analyzing the file, as required by applicant’s amended independent claims 55 and 69, and their respective dependent claims. Such claims thus patentably distinguish over the Seaman, et al. and the Yamazaki references.

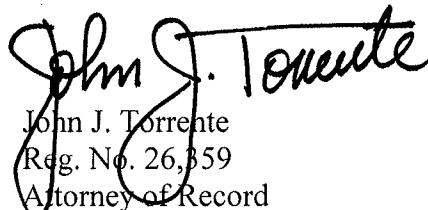
The other cited references, i. e., Tanaka, et al. ‘763 and ‘387, Yamazaki, et al. and Chiba, fail to add anything to the Seaman, et al. and the Yamazaki references to change this conclusion. Applicant’s claims, as amended, thus patentably distinguish over all these references.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant’s claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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